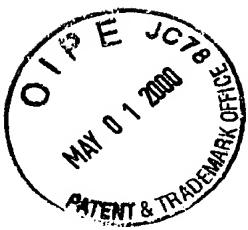


GAU 1644



PATENT
Attorney Docket No. 012712-256

P#26

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of)
Darrell R. ANDERSON et al)
Serial No. 08/746,361) Group Art Unit: 1644
Filed: November 8, 1996) Examiner: P. Gambel
For: IDENTIFICATION OF UNIQUE)
BINDING INTERACTIONS BETWEEN)
CERTAIN ANTIBODIES AND THE)
HUMAN B7.1 AND B7.2)
CO-STIMULATORY ANTIGENS)

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URGENT STATUS INQUIRY

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

On July 18, 2000, Applicants submitted an executed §132 Declaration in connection with the above-identified application which, based on a previous personal interview with the Examiner, should be sufficient to overcome the only outstanding rejection (inherency-based §102(e) rejection based on U.S. Patent 5,447,034.) As discussed with the Examiner in an earlier telephone conference (wherein this Declaration was submitted), this Declaration should place this case in condition for allowance.

When Applicants most recently spoke with Examiner Gambel, he advised that he was unable to process the application as, at that time, it was lost. Examiner Gambel indicated that he would try to ascertain the location of the file. Applicants urgently request that this matter be resolved as the non-extendible due date for placing this case in condition for allowance expires on May 30, 2000.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that this application be taken up for action as quickly as possible.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

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Date: May 1, 2000

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